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25 January 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]  
Special Assistant for Nuclear Proliferation

FROM : Richard J. Kerr  
Director of East Asian Analysis

SUBJECT : Analysis of China's Role as a Nuclear Exporter

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1. After several discussions between our China people and [REDACTED] about the issues involved in, and the appropriate vehicle for analysis of China's role as a nuclear materials exporter, we believe that OEA can most usefully treat this subject through an intelligence assessment that addresses Chinese activity and its implications for proliferation concerns. We plan to produce our assessment within the next six weeks and to focus it, with contributions from OSWR and OGI, on China's technical and economic capabilities as a nuclear exporter and on the decisionmaking and political motivations associated with its activities. We will also address the implications of China's behavior for an international non-proliferation regime.

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2. Given the needs for additional collection and analysis on this subject, we believe that producing a DDI assessment now will provide a benchmark to guide any future community work on this subject. [REDACTED] in the China Internal Division and [REDACTED] in the China External Division will serve as principle drafters for our assessment. We look forward to working with you on it.

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[REDACTED]  
Richard J. Kerr

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